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**Testimony on Behalf of the IBEW and NECA**

**Labor Committee**

**In Support of Bill 987 AA Requiring Community Workforce Agreements for  
Construction Projects at the Connecticut State University System**

To the members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the Connecticut Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (CT Chapter NECA) would like to express sincere support for SB 987, AA Requiring Community Workforce Agreements for Construction Projects at the Connecticut State University (CSU) System.

The IBEW and CT Chapter NECA represent over 2,000 licensed unionized electrical workers in the state of Connecticut. As you most likely know, the IBEW and CT Chapter NECA have always been strong supporters of Community Workforce Agreements (CWAs), also known as Project Labor Agreements (PLAs). The benefits of CWAs are extensive. CWAs encourage a focus on job access and quality of work, and also foster job growth and retention through specific provisions on hiring certain types of workers and apprentices.

Promoting CWAs on prominent projects such as those within the CSU system would encourage Connecticut jobs for Connecticut workers, and is beneficial to all involved, the owners, contractors, and workers. In this difficult economic climate, all trades have seen a significant reduction in work, and some trades are showing almost a 30% unemployment rate. A bill such as this would help to bring back those skilled workers who have been unemployed for some time.

The IBEW and CT Chapter NECA appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Thank you.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
CT Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association